

CHAPTER XI: Overview of NCCAM

Time to Talk

This is our current public education campaign, and I wanted to tell you about it. It's something you will find on our website. But I think it's a very important part of what we do. We have realized from a number of surveys that people generally often do not tell their healthcare providers about their use of these various approaches, and that's important in a variety of ways. There are some significant drug interactions, cases where herbal supplements will interfere with conventional drugs. And I also think that it's important because physicians need to potentially harness the benefits of people's own search for health and wellness in the advice they give patients, and that openness to talk about this and think with patients about whether things are helping, will improve the ability of docs to influence peoples' care. So these ask-and-tell website materials are available to anyone who is seeing patients and we encourage their use. The survey data I told you about was led by Richard Nahin, our staff epidemiologist, together with his colleagues at the CDC. So at this point I welcome comments, questions, ideas. Thank you.